

# Grizzly

Vol. 1 No. 12 June 2007

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Official Newsletter of the California National Guard



## Army Birthday/Flag Day 2007

Once again, as we celebrate another Army Birthday, we are nation at war – the Global War on Terrorism. Our Army Guard – a forward-deployed, operational force – is proudly serving around the world while wearing the red, white, and blue on the right sleeve of their BDUs, DCUs, and ACUs. It is this symbol, our nation's colors, that I want to talk about today – Flag Day, 2007. Do you really know the rich history and symbolism of Old Glory? It is more than Elizabeth Griscom Ross, George Washington, and Francis Hopkinson. It is more than five-pointed stars versus the then-traditional, six-pointed stars. We actually have to go forward from the Revolutionary War nearly 40 years to find the true meaning and essence of Flag Day.

As if being at war with France in the early 1800's wasn't difficult enough for the English, the United States went to war with Britain in 1812 over British efforts to regulate American shipping. By August of 1814, the English had attacked and invaded Washington, D.C. – setting fire to the capitol, including the White House. Thinking their task complete, the British re-boarded their ships and made way for Baltimore – their next target. Only by the grace of seasonal and regionally common thunderstorms was the nation's capitol spared from total destruction.

On September 13, 1814, the British began a bombardment of Fort McHenry, Baltimore, Maryland, that lasted for 25 continuous hours; raining 1,500 bomb shells and rockets on the beleaguered Americans. However, as night started to give way to the dawn of a new day, everything became still and quiet. In the waning hours of the night – totally unknown by the Americans – the British withdrew their land forces, ceased their naval bombardment, and retired from the field of battle.

As the sun rose over Fort McHenry on the 14th of September 1814, a young lawyer named Frances Scott Key was awestruck by the sight before him. A flag commissioned the previous year by the Commander of Fort McHenry – a young southern major by the name of George Armistead and made by a Baltimore mother and daughter, Mary and Caroline Pickersgill – measuring 30 by 42 feet, with 15 white stars that measured 2 feet from point to point, and eight red and seven white stripes (each two feet wide) was clearly visible flying over Fort McHenry.

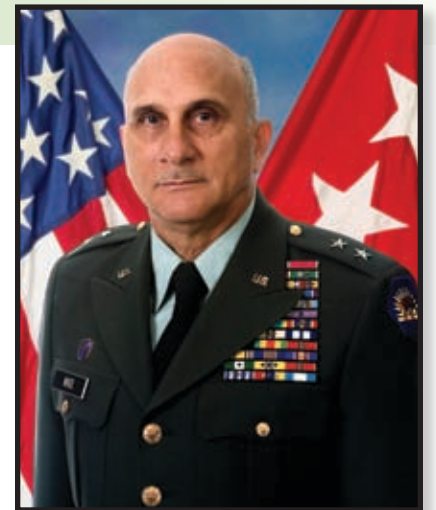
Key, an amateur poet, was so inspired by this sight that he immediately began to compose his thoughts on the back of a letter that was in his jacket pocket. He called it, Defense of Fort McHenry. His brother-in-law, J. H. Nicholson,

was so impressed by its significance, that he had copies printed and distributed around Baltimore. On September 20, 1814, it was printed in a local newspaper, The Baltimore Patriot. The next month, October, a local Baltimore actor – adding the verses of the Defense of Fort McHenry to the music of Anacreon in Heaven – sang Key's song for the first time in a public performance, calling it The Star Spangled Banner.

The history and legacy of our flag is colored, varied, storied, and as important as that of our Army and country themselves. Celebrate and honor it, because as you do, you acknowledge America's greatness and the everyday heroes of America's Army – people just like you and all those Soldiers defending our homeland or overseas in harm's way – that keep the United States of America the "Land of the Free", because it is the "Home of the Brave."

Before you go to sleep tonight in the shadow of Old Glory and under the umbrella of protection of the United States Army, remember those soldiers standing the wall and proudly wearing the Stars and Stripes on their right sleeves – and keep them in your prayers.

Happy Birthday America's Army and Old Glory – you make a great combination.



Major General  
William H. Wade II

## Thanks for the Wonderful Journey

The time has come for moving on. I had always vowed I wouldn't be a "strap hanger", when my time came I would salute smartly and move on. I will be doing that at the end of June. A lifetime of friends and cherished memories will be packed up and taken home. Some as recent as three years, and some as old as the three and a half decades I've been lucky enough to have served.

What a great trip it's been. Thirty six years, where have they gone? I've been blessed with the honor of working on behalf of the greatest enlisted force in the world. My journey hasn't been that long, when I think back on the many experiences I've had. People and places seem so fresh in my mind, like it was only yesterday.

As I reflect on some of our "road bumps" I offer some parting advice.

Let's be "doers", don't talk about taking care of Soldiers and Airmen.

"Taking care" is an empty phrase if you don't take the time to go visit them and prove you mean it. Follow through, provide answers and don't make idle promises. If you can't fix it, say so. Then find out what the alternatives are. So many of our enlisted force have issues because someone didn't want to go the extra mile to really see what could be done for them. More than talking listen to what your Soldiers and Airmen have to say. You will be surprised how much you can learn if you take the time to listen rather than always giving "sage" advice. The time to communicate is when they need guidance, expectations and feedback. Let your charges know how they're doing. Don't wait until evaluations come due to let them know there is room for improvement or they are a stellar performer. Provide recognition in all forms, whether it's a pat on the back, or a formal presentation. Everyone wants to know they are appreciated. You will be remembered as one of their greatest mentors.

It's not about any one of us, It's about every one of us. We train as a team and we win or lose as a team. We are admired by other states for the great things our Soldiers and Airmen do. I have looked into the eyes of some of the most intelligent, and motivated military members I have encountered in my career and I'm reassured that the California National Guard's future is secure.

I want to thank all of those that have gone before me. The committed leaders that mentored me and "held my feet to the fire" so I would learn my lessons well. To my Senior NCO leaders that taught me the responsibility of leadership and care for my subordinates. To my Commanders that allowed me the honor of serving with and for them in the care of our greatest resource, our people.

Most importantly, for the support of my wonderful wife and family who have made this journey with me. Many family celebrations, bro-



Command Chief Master Sgt.  
Henry V. Fernandez

ken bones, ruptured appendix, or sporting events happened while I was fulfilling my military responsibilities. Your support and understanding I can never repay.

To the Soldiers and Airmen of the California National Guard, I thank and salute you and offer a Prayer for your safe and successful journey.

## Grizzly Newsletter

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The Official Newsletter of the  
California National Guard

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## From the Editor

Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day present Americans with the opportunity to pay tribute to the men and women that serve this nation and for those that have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Many communities hold parades, picnics or organize groups to place flags on the headstones of fallen Soldiers. As individuals we many times lose sight of the significance of these organized events and we tend to celebrate the three day holiday instead of taking a moment to reflect on the 'why.'

The California National Guard has lost 24 Soldiers in support of the Global War on Terrorism. The last page of the Grizzly is dedicated to these Soldiers. Take a moment to honor their memory.

The 4th July festivities provide yet another opportunity to celebrate the freedom enjoyed by this nation. Once again, I challenge you to get involved with your community. Participate as a unit or as an individual. The VFW and local veteran groups would definetly appreciate any assistance in showcasing our rich military traditions.



Cover photo: Tech Sgt. Joseph Prouse

## Grizzly Submissions

### Articles:

- ★ 250 – 300 words for half a page, 600-800 words for full page article.
- ★ Include first and last names, and *verify spelling*
- ★ If there is a Public Affairs officer assigned to your unit ensure he/she reviews it.

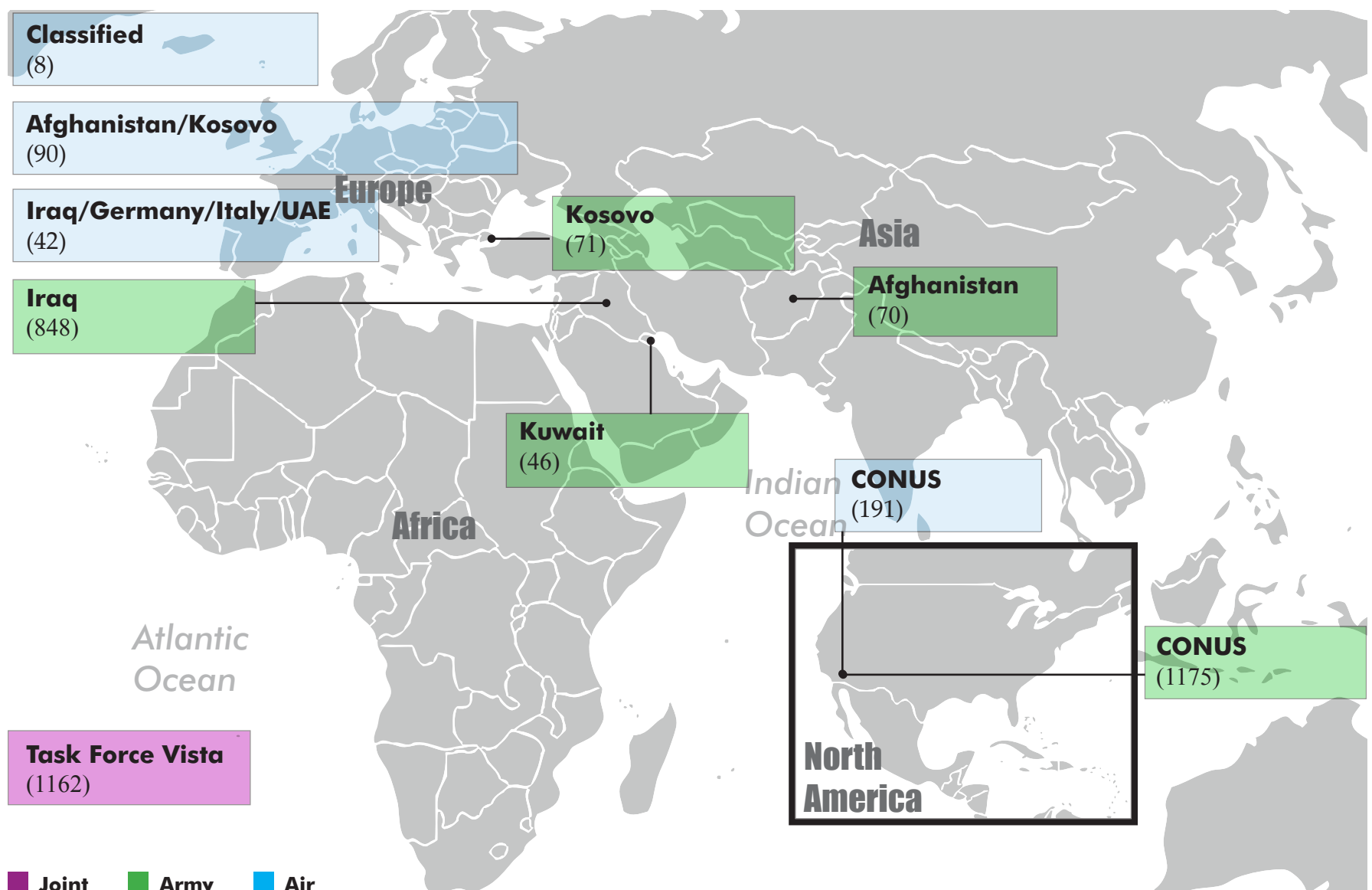
### Photographs:

- ★ Highest resolution possible, minimum 300 dpi
- ★ Credits (who took photograph)
- ★ Cutline (what action is taking place in the photograph and identify individuals in photograph)

Email story submissions by the 15th of every month to:  
[mirtha.villarreal@us.army.mil](mailto:mirtha.villarreal@us.army.mil)

## Where We Are

## The California National Guard as of June 2007





## CERFP

By Sgt. 1st Class Robert Pack

A truck bomb was detonated at a toxic industrial chemical facility spewing noxious fumes into the air and contaminating local residents of a small California town with dangerous chemicals. Thiodiglycol, a component of commercially produced pesticides and a precursor of H series blister agents was the largest single contaminant.

This was the scenario presented to the California National Guard's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high yield explosive Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) team at a joint exercise conducted at Camp Roberts April 18, 2007.

The California Guard's highly trained CERFP team is comprised of 70 Soldiers from the 579th Engineer Battalion, and 41 Air Guard medical personnel from Air Guard units throughout California.

The recently mobilized A Battery, 143rd Field

Artillery had been tasked as the decontamination element for the CERFP. With their deployment the 579th Engineers inherited the decontamination assignment. The California Guard's CERFP team's mission for this cool, windy day at Camp Roberts was to validate the team's capability and to determine how many individuals could be decontaminated in one hour's time. The all-day exercise consisted of 40 members of the California National Guard posing as contamination victims and began with the impressive team of highly trained CERFP professionals marking off areas of team responsibilities, pitching tents and installing necessary materials and equipment.

All 'victims' were first gathered in a containment or receiving area where they were logged in. Next, they were sent to the triage area where medical personnel evaluated individuals as to whether they were walking ambulatory or non-ambulatory. Once that determination was made, the non-ambulatory 'victims' made their

way into the log-in paperwork area where they were joined by the walking ambulatory 'victims' who were transported to the area via roller tracks similar to those used on loading docks to move cargo. Personnel in the log-in paperwork area collect the 'victims' personal belongings that cannot be decontaminated and throw them into bags to be destroyed. Belongings that can be decontaminated are tagged. Contaminated personnel leave the log-in paperwork area with only their clothes. All victims then enter tents where the non-ambulatory 'victims' remove their contaminated clothing and trash their garments. The walking ambulatory 'victims' have their clothing cut-off by CERFP members. For this particular exercise, males posing as victims were allowed to keep their shorts on, and female 'victims' were allowed to wear their shorts and t-shirts. The realism of the exercise was evidenced by the gooseflesh evident on the bodies of the male participants.

Next, all victims were sent to a tent to wash off the contaminants then proceed to a monitoring area to determine if contaminants were still present. Those victims who still showed evidence of contamination are returned to the wash-off area. Following decontamination, the individuals enter the dry-off and redress area. Once dressed, all personnel enter the log-out area where they are informed that they have been decontaminated and logged-out. Finally, the 'victims' enter the medical treatment area where they are stabilized before being moved to local hospitals. The entire process is extremely thorough and exacting.

Once the exercise was concluded, the CERFP teams began striking the tents and loading all equipment and materials into trucks so that they would be ready to respond immediately in the event of an actual disaster or emergency. "The all-day exercise was a resounding success," stated Lt. Adam Rix, "proving once again that the California National Guard is always ready, always and able to help the citizens of our state and nation in their time of need."



CERFP Team Member monitors for possible radiation exposure.



PHOTOS: LT. COL. JOHN SIEMANN



# FTX 2007: When Exercise Goes “Real-world”

By Tech Sgt. David J. Loeffler

For the first time in California a powerful force was brought together to fight the war on drugs. Members of California National Guard Counterdrug Task Force (CDTF) were joined by Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) at Fort Hunter Liggett for a two week Field Training Exercise.

Approximately 150 military and 50 Law Enforcement Agents received practical training in field safety, rules of force, land navigation, drug and alcohol prevention, media relations and marijuana eradication. The purpose of the training and the Field Exercise was to prepare the task force for support to LEAs throughout the year

“The teams came together and proved they had the skills and abilities to complete the task at hand.” said Col. Timothy Swann, Counter Drug Commander “ The training turned real-world on the last day of the exercise when we discovered a marijuana garden that contained over 39,000 plants.”

The two week exercise gave an opportunity for members of the CDTF to work side-by-side with members of Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA) and Community Based Organizations (CBO). The summit allowed the exchange of information and skill to all involved.

“I remember one of the first DTO (Drug Trafficking Organization) gardens (marijuana) we entered. It was just myself, a Sheriff’s Deputy and one Ranger. We were overwhelmed by the amount of plants we had to eradicate and thought it was an impossible job.” said Alan P. Foster, Special Agent U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. “With the cooperation of the National Guard we have been able to greatly reduce the damage done by illegal marijuana growing in our National Parks.”

With the growing trend of illegal marijuana planting in the national parks, the eradication of illegally grown marijuana has become a critical joint mission between the CDTF and California State Law Enforcement Agencies. Last year 1,901,416 plants were eradicated from California public land. Had the marijuana reached the streets it would have had a value of over 7.5 billion dollars.

The eradication of the illegal marijuana plants is followed by reclamation of the national park property. According to the National Park Service for every acre of national park land used to illegally grow marijuana ten acres are badly damaged. The illegal marijuana growers damage the eco-system by clear cutting the local flora, using pesticides and herbicides, damming and redirecting of rivers and streams, illegal poaching of local animals and dumping of waste materials. The National Park Service estimates that it costs tax payers \$11,000 per acre to reclaim the property back to its pristine state.

“The war on drugs within our National Parks System is a continuing battle to provide a safe and pristine environment of which we can all enjoy.” said Swann “Although the Drug Trafficking Organizations have become more organized and more violent; and the illegal marijuana gardens have grown in size, our joint efforts to eradicate illegal marijuana plants and our reclamation of park property have never been more successful.”

PHOTO: STAFF SGT. ULISES VILLALBA



Members of the CDTF practice sling load techniques during the FTX 2007. This was part of a two week training exercise that prepared the task force members for support of LEAs throughout the year.



Law Enforcement Agents participate in a mock drug bust during the CDTF FTX 2007.



Members of the Drug Demand Reduction Team take part in an exercise that utilizes team work and time management.



## Peer to Peer Training

By Maj. Steve Fetrow

The California National Guard has a program that really can and does make a difference in the lives of our soldiers and airmen deployed overseas. This program is the "Peer to Peer" training program. It would be my recommendation that every commander in the process of mobilization would make arrangements to have this training incorporated into their preparation for deployment. Why? Because it works!

The concept of "Peer to Peer" training is simple... soldiers and airmen are the first and the best source of preventative maintenance within the unit. The concept of a "battle buddy" or a "wingman" has special meaning in a combat zone. The people we work with, the people we live with, the people we interact with on a daily basis are the people who are most likely able to notice problems and most able to initiate intervention.

Psychological research has long validated that "frontline intervention" is critical for both short-term and long-term mental health. The stress of combat is real and sometimes we need to rely upon someone else to help us pick up the pieces and move forward. The dangers of depression and the risk of suicide are real concerns in a combat zone. Having someone that can identify warning signs, provide informed

care and intervention, and promote necessary referrals makes a big difference in the life of any unit. The more soldiers and airmen that understand combat stress, combat stress related illnesses, suicide prevention, buddy care principles, active listening skills, and the value of well-timed referrals is a win for the Army and the Air Force. That is "Peer to Peer" training.

Active Duty units (especially in the Marine Corps) are making the move to mandate such training into the preparation for deployment. Law Enforcement agencies all across the nation recognize the importance of peer initiated intervention and have long made use of such a model. This model is available to ALL units of the California National Guard, regardless if these units are in the process of deployment, recently returned from deployment, or are currently serving solely in M-Day status. To initiate such training, a unit commander need only contact the program director, Mr. Jon Wilson at 916-854-3409 or [jon.k.wilson@us.army.mil](mailto:jon.k.wilson@us.army.mil).

The CNG Peer to Peer program recently conducted training with our 1/160th IN BN preparing for deployment in Camp Shelby, Mississippi. The BN CDR, LTC Andrew Rosso requested the training and our Peer to Peer training team made the journey to prepare sol-

diers for the trials of combat. The training was conducted in the evening following a long day of training and is a voluntary program. Even so, there was a strong representation from each company and the soldiers comments and evaluations were extremely positive. The training was significant enough that LTC Rosso has requested the Peer to Peer team return and provide another block of training for additional soldiers who are interested.

If your unit is deploying or preparing to deploy, you need this training! If your unit recently returned from deployment, you need this training! If your unit will ever participate in any mission at any point, you need this training! Bottom line... Peer to Peer training is so valuable that every unit in the California National Guard should schedule this training!

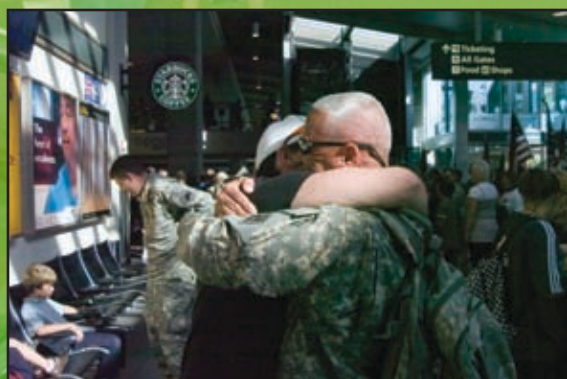




# 40th ID Engineers Return from Iraq



PHOTOS: SGT. 1ST CLASS ROBERT PACK



Members of the Engineer Brigade, 40th Infantry Division returned to various airports throughout California after a year-long deployment to Northern Iraq.

The mission of the Engineer Brigade and the Gulf Region Division was to provide quality, responsive, full spectrum engineering in Iraq in support of military and civil construction. Working at the national level, and interacting directly with Iraqi Ministers and the two Deputy Prime Ministers, the members of the Brigade also helped to develop the capabilities of the new Iraqi Government to

develop and maintain their own infrastructure. Additionally, they delivered logistical services and aggressively assisted the government of Iraq in assuming full responsibility for national reconstruction.

While in Iraq, the 40th Engineer Brigade assisted in projects that included renovation and construction of hospitals, primary healthcare facilities, municipal buildings, water and wastewater treatment facilities, police stations and border forts, electrical power generation and distribution systems, roads, seaports and airports.





## Sergeant Rhys William Klasno



**Sergeant Rhys William Klasno, 20, of Riverside, California, died May 13 in Haditha, Iraq, of wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle.**

Sergeant Klasno was born in Orange, California and enlisted in the California Army National Guard on 12 March 2004 as a member of Troop F, 1st Squadron 18th Cavalry in Los Alamitos, California. Sergeant Klasno was attached to the 3rd Cadet Company at Camp San Luis Obispo and reported to Fort Jackson, South Carolina, for Basic Training in July 2004. On 27 September 2004, Sergeant Klasno completed Basic Training and reported to Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, for Advanced Individual Training (AIT). During this period Sergeant Klasno was awarded Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) 89B10 (Ammunition Specialist). Sergeant Klasno was released from AIT on 9 December 2004 and advanced to Private First Class (PFC). On 10 June 2005, he was advanced to Specialist. Sergeant

Klasno was attached to the 1114th Transportation Company in Bakersfield, California, in December 2005 and in February 2006 he was relieved from attachment and assigned to Company A, 3/140th Aviation S&S Battalion. Sergeant Klasno was again attached to the 1114th Transportation Company and in March 2005, he was reassigned to Detachment 1, Company A, 3/140th Aviation S&S Battalion. On 11 April 2006, Sergeant Klasno was reassigned to the 1114th Transportation Company as a Heavy Vehicle Driver, MOS 88M10 and on 27 April 2006, he was ordered to duty for Operation Iraqi Freedom. Sergeant Klasno was posthumously promoted to Sergeant on 13 May 2007. Sergeant Klasno's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Combat Action Badge, and California Drill Attendance Ribbon.

## Fallen Soldier Remembered as Fun Loving, Dedicated & Honest

*By Capt. Perry M. Jarmon*

AL ASAD, Iraq - Soldiers of the 1114th Transportation Company, 630th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Bakersfield, Calif., honored one of their fallen comrades in a Memorial Ceremony May 18.

Specialist Rhys W. Klasno, 20, of Riverside, Calif., died May 13 in Haditha, Iraq, of wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle.

A newly wed and expectant father, Sgt. Rhys W. Klasno, was remembered as a fun-loving, devoted husband who eagerly awaited fatherhood and as a dedicated and honest Soldier

Honesty was a key reflection that Lt. Col. David L. Jones, 630th CSSB battalion commander shared during his remarks. "There is one important characteristic that I will always remember about Sgt. Klasno. That is the fact the he was forth right and honest. When the truth needed to be told, you could rest assured in Sgt. Klasno that he was honest, no matter what the consequences were" Jones said. He was always ready to answer the call for any mission that his chain of command asked of him. Without question, he always performed in an outstanding manner.

The 1114th TC company commander Capt. David Como remembered Klasno for his sense of humor and dedication. "Rhys (pronounced Reese) had a special sense of humor" Como said. "I don't ever remember a time that he was angry or out of control or even a problem. He had the integrity and the intestinal fortitude to accept his mistakes and learn from them as only great men do. He was a hard working Soldier who never complained at a given task. This time was no different."

Four fellow Soldiers, Sgt. 1st Class Russell Thomas from Central Point, Ore., Sgt. Gary Finney from Rancho Santa Margarita, Calif., Spec. Christopher C. Marino from Apple Valley,, and Spec. Stephany Fraire from Sacramento, Calif., also paid tributes to their friend during the ceremony. Again touching on his sense of humor, Thomas shared how Klasno kept things entertaining when they were all first thrown together and expected to immediately form a unit. Soldiers were unsure of upcoming assignments and facing constant change. "One could see that he had the ability to make everything feel better than it actually was" Thomas said. "Klasno had the ability to find humor in everything and that was infectious."

Finney thought of Klasno as an ideal little brother and as a person interested in helping others. "Anyone my age would be proud to have him as a brother" Finney said. "His job with our unit was ammo, but his heart was in helping people that needed help. He always talked about being an emergency medical technician or a Combat Medic."

"I just hope that his daughter grows up to be just like him so the world can see what kind of a person Rhys was" Finney said. "Sgt. Klasno may have been

young, but I would stand side-by-side with him on anything and go anywhere with him."

Specialist Christopher Marino remembered Klasno as a devoted husband to his beautiful and supportive wife Stephanie, an overjoyed father to his expected daughter London and a loyal son to both of his parents. "He was a determined warrior" Marino said.

In Klasno's honor, Fraire shared a poem to the friends, families and Soldiers of the 1114th TC. An excerpt from the poem said "The family that we have created is not temporary. We stand only beside you without end. Our love will never cease or be deprived. Our bonds will never unravel or come loose."





# 163d RW Closes the Gap to FTD Completion

By Maj. Brenda Hendricksen

When the 163d Reconnaissance Wing took on its new mission beginning in January of 2006, it was three fold, involving standing up an operational orbit, a field training detachment (FTD) and field training unit (FTU). One down two to go.

Of the two in the works, the FTD is the closest to becoming fully functional at the Wing. This is the maintenance schoolhouse part of the predator mission while the FTU is the flying schoolhouse portion. The Wing will host the second existing ANG FTD schoolhouse. The first is 172nd AW, Jackson, MS., teaching C-17 maintenance.

The 163d RW FTD is slated to open in the late summer or early fall time frame. "The date depends on when we get the equipment needed for instruction," said Maintenance Group Commander Col. Charles Manley. "We currently have enough qualified instructors to handle the mission," added Col. Manley. "There needs to be more training opportunities available. We hope to relieve some of the backlog by opening early."

Ten Wing members are currently deployed as instructors to the active-duty predator school house at Nellis Air Force Base, NV, Detachment 13. Two thirds of the instructors are Grizzlies. Primarily those selected for the teaching positions either came from communications or

maintenance positions. "The training I received at Nellis was pretty straight forward. Coming from a Communications background it was an easy transition into the predator side of the house," said Senior Master Sgt. John Clayton who came from the 222nd Combat Communications Squadron where he oversaw all radio and electronic switching maintenance.

The process of becoming qualified FTD instructors was just under a year in the making. The guardsmen attended the Basic Instructors Course followed by 30-days of hands on training at Creech AFB then the Basic Predator Course. From here the instructors split off into their specialties for the next five to eight weeks. There are three FTD areas of instruction; ground communications, avionics and airframe and engine. All instructors are qualified to teach the Basic Predator Course plus their specialty courses.

"The schedule of classes depends on the demand," said Aircraft and Engine Instructor Senior Master Sgt. Ron Egan who began teaching approximately eight months ago. Some instructors have a heavier class schedule. "The idea is to bring everyone back to March and return to Nellis (AFB) to teach classes as needed. If it makes sense some will stay (at Nellis AFB)," added Sgt. Egan about the interim time between now and the schoolhouse opening up.

The instructors are not only learning effective instruction but also how to do business as a school house. "Everything we are doing here (at Nellis AFB) will help us get to where we need to be as a school house," said Sgt. Clayton.

Another part of becoming an instructor is being mandated by Air Education and Training Command (AETC) to obtain a Community College of the Air Force Degree (CCAF). The main reason for this is that at least 90 percent of AETC instructors must have a CCAF degree. "AETC wants all their instructors to have CCAF degrees. The percentage has to do with Air Force schoolhouse accreditation," said Sgt. Egan. Two members recently received their degrees while deployed to Nellis AFB, SSgt. Heath Branham and Tech. Sgt. Bryan Miller. Three more are due to walk in October; two with their second degrees, Master Sgt. Bill Salinas, Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Oberg, and one with his third, Tech. Sgt. Mike Adams.

Along with the FTD and FTU will come the Launch and Recovery Element (LRE) which is slated to be complete the third or fourth quarter of 2008. This will fall under the training portion of the mission and will operate out of Southern California Logistics Airport (SCLA). This is where students, in between schools, will obtain hands on experience.



Left to Right, Tech. Sgt. Mike Adams, Staff Sgt. Chris Brown and Tech. Sgt. Jen Oberg in a ground control station at Nellis AFB, NV.

PHOTO: MASTER SGT. BILL SALINAS





*Mrs. Manivanh Garcia performs a Lao dance for the Joint Forces Headquarters personnel in celebration of Asian Pacific Islander Month.*

## Contributors:

**Tech Sgt. Joseph Prouse**  
**Staff Sgt. Ulises Villalba**  
**Mary Lynn Azar**  
**Capt. Alexas Scott**  
**Staff Sgt. Nfor Barthson**  
**Dana Doss**  
**Maj. Daniel Markert**



*For the first time since returning from multiple overseas missions all Soldiers within the 49th Military Police Brigade trained together at Camp San Luis Obispo and Camp Roberts in May. More on this story coming up in the July issue of the Grizzly.*



*The NCO the Year for California is Staff Sgt. Jorge A. Garcia (40th ID), and the Soldier of the year is Spec. Richard X. Olmedo (224th SB) won the competition for Region 7 NCO & Soldier of the year in Arizona. Region seven is comprised of Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada. In August the Soldiers will compete for the NGB soldier of the year at Fort Benning.*



# ance



*SUNNYVALE, Calif. - Maj. Daniel Markert, 40th IBCT, kneels with Guarav Bhatnagar at Cupertino Co-Op Nursery School during "Community Helpers Day" at the school. Maj. Markert is a participating parent at the school and showcased the National Guard's homeland security mission by setting up a one-rope bridge for the children.*



*Staff Sgt David Cammack of the 223rd RTI, displays his California National Guard pride in his go-kart at Santa Maria go-Kart Track.*



*Sgt 1st Class John Larson, Sgt. Rebecca Larson, Brig. Gen. Mary Kight, Mr. Kevin Graves, Gold Star Dad of Spc. Joseph Graves, USA, JP Tremblay, Deputy Director, California Department of Veteran's Affairs, 1st Lt. Mark Unger, Chaplain (CSMR) and Gold Star Parent of Spc. Daniel Unger, 1st Sgt. Paul Johnson, Honor Guard. Gold Star family members are the immediate family a member of the Armed Forces who was killed in service to their country.*



*Members of the 9th Civil Support Team conduct a map reconnaissance before taking part in a joint exercise.*



*Col. Peter Seitz, commander, Installation Support Group, swears in nine new recruits for the unit, which is headquartered at the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos.*



*Army medical doctor, Lt. Col. Salvador Renteria, conducts an interview with a Soldier as part of the SRP process in San Diego. The SRP must meet standards set by the US Army.*



# Fire Fighting

*By Staff Sgt. Ryan Brayton*



The 233rd Engineer Detachment (Firefighting), Roseville, participated in a joint live fire exercise with multiple fire agencies on May 6th, 2007. The training was hosted by the Loomis Fire Department. Also present were firefighters from South Placer Fire Protection District, Penryn Fire Department, and Rocklin Fire Department.

The purpose of the exercise was to refine structural firefighting skills using a donated house that was scheduled for demolition. Unit firefighters were given an up close and realistic opportunity to put their training to the test. During the exercise, they were able to advance, search for victims, and extinguish numerous “room and contents” fires. During these exercises, a fire in a room is given the opportunity to build to a point where it spreads out across the ceiling and moves into other rooms, a condition called roll-over.

Also during the event, the unit got the opportunity to utilize its new state-of-the-art \$375K M1142 Tactical Fire Fighting Truck. A 33 ton Type 1 fire engine specially designed on a modified HEMMET chassis. The engine pumped water continuously for nearly 6 hours as it provided attack lines for firefighters throughout the day.

The exercise concluded that evening with setting fire to the entire house and controlling its burn to the ground. “It was a great opportunity for me to train on the real thing again. With so many laws and regulations regarding air quality these days, it’s a big deal to be a part of exercises like this.” Stated Spc. John O’Leary, Lead Firefighter for the unit. “It’s training like this that keeps me in this unit, and the Guard.” Sgt. Ryan Esparza, Apparatus Engineer / Paramedic.

This exercise concluded an intensive three days of training for the unit. On Friday and Saturday, the unit conducted Water Survival Training and the units Swiftwater Rescue Team conducted its annual refresher training on the American River, a joint training event with California State Park Rangers in Auburn.





# 'From Russia with Love'

By Capt. Alyson Teeter

MOFFETT FEDERAL AIRFIELD, Calif. – Air National Guardsmen here worked with an aircraft April 20-22 that was vastly different from the MC-130P Combat Shadow tankers, HH-60G Pave Hawk rescue helicopters and other United States Air Force aircraft they're accustomed to.

129th Rescue Wing Airmen were deploying to Afghanistan and needed aircraft to transport HH-60G Pave Hawk rescue helicopters. Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom have kept C-17 Globemasters and C-5 Galaxies extremely busy, and the high operations tempo of these aircraft led to the scheduling of contracted cargo airlift, according to Senior Master Sgt. Anthony Przymus, Logistics Readiness Squadron Contingency Plans Superintendent and Deployment Control Center Logistics Representative.

Enter the Russian Volga-Dnepr AN-124 long-range heavy transport aircraft.

The enormous white fuselage splashed with blue paint and Russian writing provided a rare sight

for 129th Airmen. "This was the first time the AN-124 hauled 129th cargo," Sergeant Przymus said.

Volga-Dnepr Airlines is a civilian company based out of Russia and has the world's largest fleet of AN-124 aircraft, according to its website. The AN-124's unique capabilities and loading equipment make it possible to transport out-sized and bulk cargo, like heavy engines, satellites and helicopters. In January 2002 Volga-Dnepr became the first civil aviation company to operate flights to Afghanistan.

Volga-Dnepr Airlines transports military aircraft, cargo and service-members all over the world, said Sergey Menashev, a radio operator for the AN-124 who has flown on the aircraft for more than 20 years.

"We airlift the military quite a bit and fly in to combat zones in Afghanistan," he said. "It's nice to be here in California."

After the aircraft landed and the air crew disembarked, the load crew got down to business. The nose of the plane opened up and the Russian and 129th load crews

worked through a language barrier to solidify the load plan for the three Pave Hawk helicopters.

"Once they landed the crew wanted to load the cargo right away, which helped facilitate schedules," said 1st Lieutenant Mario Montero, Logistics Readiness Squadron Installation Deployment Officer. "The crew was really friendly and timely."

With the nose cone up and the front end open, the Russian crew operated the winching equipment and 129th Airmen steered the helicopters up the ramp and in to the aircraft. The process required swift communication and coordination between the two crews.

While the crews loaded the helicopters, Technical Sgt. John Szelog, 129th Maintenance Squadron electronic countermeasures maintainer, curiously inspected the AN-124. He was one of the two 129th Airmen scheduled to fly on the aircraft.

"I'm looking forward to the flight – it should be interesting," he said with a big grin.

Three hours after the AN-124 landed the helicopters were loaded and secured for the long journey to

Afghanistan. But there was more work to be done.

A C-17 flown and operated by Air Force Reservists from McChord Air Force Base was loaded with deploying 129th Air National Guardsmen during the helicopter loading. The AN-124 was parked near the C-17 on the tarmac.

Adding to the Total Force mix was an Active Duty Tanker Airlift Control Element from Travis AFB. The TALCE team provided necessary equipment to load the cargo aircraft. They also provided additional expertise preparing the cargo for proper air shipment.

In the end the deployment of 129th Rescue Wing equipment and Air National Guardsmen was a resounding success because of the cooperation between Air National Guardsmen, Air Force Reservists, Air Force Active Duty Airmen and Russian civilians.

"This is a great example of our total Air Force at work," said Colonel Wayne Albright, 129th Rescue Wing Vice Commander. "The Active Duty, Guard and Reserves train to and work with the same standards making even the novelty of loading an AN-124 go effortlessly."





## Rare Machine Gun Donated to State Military Museum

The California State Military Museum recently acquired a rare French machine gun thanks to Brig. Gen. (CA, Ret) Richard Pierce. The Mle/15 "Chouchat" light machine gun, known as the "Chocho" by the Americans, was a very poorly manufactured weapon that included magazine that was open on one side. While this allow the Soldier to see how much ammunition he had, it also allowed dirt to get into the gun's working parts. It was eventually replaced by the M1917 Browning Machine Gun. Over the past year, the museum has received several rare weapons from the Auburn Police Department and the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department.

### State Military Museum Expands Opening Days and Hours

Effective 1 May 2007, the California State Military Museum returns to its summer hours. The museum will be 10:00 to 17:00 Tuesday, Wednesday, and Sunday; and 10:00 to 19:00 on Fridays and Saturdays. Soldiers and Airmen of the California National Guard and State Military Reserve, as well as their dependents with an ID card, are admitted FREE to the museum. Other guests are admitted at half price. This is YOUR museum, please come and visit your heritage.



*Brigadier General (CA, Ret) Richard Pierce presents a rare French "Chouchat" machine gun to Command Sgt. Maj. (CA) Dan Sebby, Curator of the California State Military Museum, Sacramento.*

## Cal Guard Inks Partnership Pact to Hire A Hero

By Spec. Jeff Rogers

JFTB, Los Alamitos, CA — California's citizen-soldiers now have a home-front ally when they return from overseas assignments and deployments.

A new agreement between the California National Guard and Hire A Hero, a nonprofit organization, will mean additional support and convenience for Soldiers and Airmen seeking work in their communities.

Under terms of the memorandum of understanding, which was signed May 5, 2007, Hire A Hero will operate a special job search program for members of the military. The program will feature a support office accessible by phone and the web to provide other employment resources, including assistance with resumes.

When Soldiers and Airmen return from long-term assignments, employers haven't always been responding to applications for open positions, according to Dan Caulfield, Executive Director of Hire A Hero. Younger military personnel, especially those in the 20-to- 24 age range, are facing an unemployment average of almost three times greater than that of the national average.

"Hire A Hero believes that those who have done the most to protect the American dream deserve

their fair share for their service," said Caulfield during a signing ceremony with Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II, the Adjutant General of California. The event took place in the rotunda of the 40th Infantry Division's headquarters at Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base.

Caulfield, a former Marine officer, said a key part of successful job-seeking by Soldiers and Airmen is the direct human contact with employers or potential employers. Hire A Hero can lend a critical hand to make sure that vital connection is not missing.

Hire A Hero will make sure that those who submit an all-purpose employment application will be quickly contacted. This is to ensure that it was received correctly and that contact information is confirmed.

Those who apply will also have the chance to gain skills education in a field they may be interested in. That's because Hire A Hero works closely with its private-sector sponsor, Lincoln Technical Institute, to provide education opportunities so that military job specialties can be integrated better into the local job market.

"We care about and can help the military community through the transition process" of returning

home, said Jim Kuntz, the representative of Lincoln Technical.

Through Hire A Hero, Lincoln Technical offers 124 academic scholarships specifically for National Guardsmen. Among the largest: eight annual Frontline Scholarships, which provide full funding for deployed soldiers to enroll in distance-learning courses; 16 National Guard Scholarships at \$10,000 each per Soldier or spouse; and 100 Military Community Scholarships of \$2,000 each for Soldier or spouse.

And, to help increase their odds of finding jobs after any technical training, Hire A Hero works with employers who have jobs that need to be filled. As positions become available, the agency works to help place applicants as best possible with their skill level and experience.

Caulfield put countless hours into working out program details with Col. Charlotte Miller of the California Accessions Task Force and Sgt. Maj. Kurt Muchow of the Recruiting and Retention Command to make the agreement possible. The concept of providing Soldiers and Airmen a convenient resource to

working again in local communities has been realized through this agreement.

Maj. Gen. Wade stated in his remarks prior to signing that businesses will find good workers from the Guard. "Our soldiers and airmen have been tried, tested, and proven in combat," he said. "As a result, they possess unique leadership skills that would be the envy of any employer in the community."

Gov. Schwarzenegger has also seen how important this program is for the state and will soon be recognizing it by proclamation. Hire A Hero plans to award him the "Tip of the Arrow Award" for being the first Governor in the country to endorse the program for the Guard.

Hire A Hero can be found online at: [www.hireahero.com](http://www.hireahero.com) where online applications can be submitted 24/7. The support line phone number is: 866-440-4424.





PHOTOS: STAFF SGT. JOSEPH PROUSE



STOCKTON, Calif. – A deployment ceremony for California National Guard Soldiers from the Stockton-based 118th Maintenance Company was held on Tuesday May 22, 2007, at Delta College's Athletic Field, Stockton, California.

250 Soldiers from all over California are deploying in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and will be providing service maintenance support to multiple units in Iraq. To prepare for their year-long tour, the unit will leave May 23, 2007, to Fort Hood, Texas, where they will conduct extensive pre-deployment training.

## 118th Maintenance Company Prepares to Deploy to Iraq





## 40th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Fields Joint Network Node

By Staff Sgt. Jessica Inigo

SAN DIEGO (May 5, 2007) – National Guard telecommunications soldiers were the first in the California National Guard to field test the Army's latest technology to help bring better communication capabilities to deployed troops. The Joint Network Node allows for quick satellite communications hook-up, a vast improvement over previous radio "line of sight" antenna hook-ups of the past.

"This weekend, as far as my unit is concerned, is very pivotal mainly because most of my troops before this have not worked with the JNN. It's like their initiation into the Signal Corps," said Capt. Sarah Hudson, commander of Company C, Special Troops Battalion, 40th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. "Yes, they've gone to [military telecommunications school] and yes, they understand the theory, but this is the first time where the rubber meets the road."

The JNN system takes a variety Soldiers, from generator operators to satellite operators, to run smoothly. Plus, some troops have even volunteered out of their job field to help be part of the Guard's communication company.

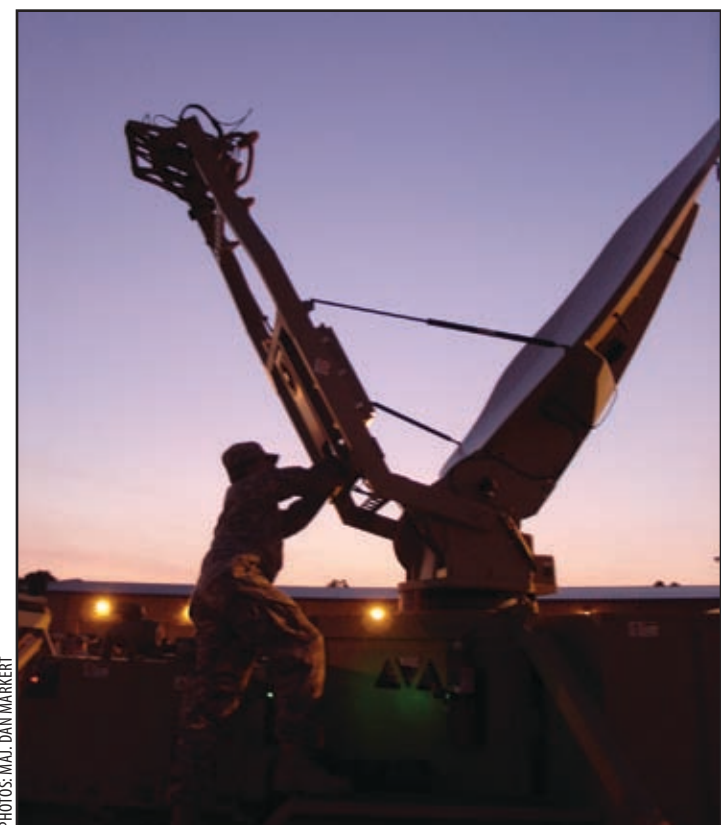
Spc. Russell Weston, an administrative specialist with the 1st Squadron, 18th Cavalry from Azusa, Calif., is one of these volunteers.

"I'm totally brand new to this. So far it's fantastic. This system allows for satellite communications from a command location out to the combat zone," Weston said. "The hands-on training has been fun and very educational."

The JNN system brings the ease of satellite communications to the old radio wave Multiple Subscriber Equipment system, converting analog waves into digital format when needed and reconvert back to analog when needed on the ground. The JNN system allows for complete telecommunication needs, including both secure and unsecured lines for telephones, computers, and video teleconferencing, just with less equipment than was needed previous to the JNN, according to Staff Sgt. Shannon Finley, network team chief, with Company A, Special Troops Battalion, 40th Infantry Division, out of Long Beach, Calif.

"The JNN is an amazing machine," Finley said during the early Saturday morning training on the equipment. "You can plop down in the middle of no where and call home, call grandma and still receive official Army documents – like op orders." Though, personal calls home to grandma is not normal policy.

Col. David Baldwin, the 40th IBCT commander, relates the significance of the JNN to missions here in California. "The communications capabilities that the JNN brings to the brigade combat team are tremendous. In a mission supporting civil authorities during a disaster or other emergency, the brigade will have voice, data, and video satellite communications throughout its operational environment - regardless of the status of local communications infrastructure." The JNN was fielded during an exercise conducted at the San Diego National Guard Armory during the May 4-6 drill weekend. Soldiers with the 40th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and their subordinate units practiced their specific jobs during this command post exercise to help prepare for their upcoming Warfighter during the two-week annual training later in the year.



PHOTOS: MAL DAN MARKERT





# Soul Survivors

National Guardsmen recall January chopper crash

By Sgt. Edde Siguenza

A photograph rests on a desk at a Task Force Wily hangar. In it, five California National Guard aviators point upward, index fingers held head-high. It's a team picture, minus the Head Coach. In most victories, the Head Coach shadows his players. He sits in the background, obscured.

In January, four of those pictured played the game of life and won. The photo signifies a championship win and it's a tribute to the Head Coach. They point upward to God in thanks.

It was three months ago when a crew from Joint Task Force VISTA's aviation unit flew a routine mission over Otay Mountain, 20 miles from San Diego. With five Border Patrol agents aboard, their UH-1 "Huey" helicopter crashed. Close to 9,000 pounds of metal, fuel and bodyweight violently launched into a mountainside.

Miraculously, everyone survived.

But for the Guardsmen, it has been a challenging recovery. One has yet to return to work. Another has returned, but still suffers physical pain. All constantly deal with the mental images of January's incident, sometimes in positive ways, sometimes not.

"I think about the 'what if...' scenarios a lot," said the pilot, a chief warrant officer. "We were very lucky. None of us were supposed to die that day. I am not overly religious, but I do believe someone was watching over us that day." A staff sergeant crewmember said, "There were three pilots that day. We know why we're alive, because God kept us alive."

The names of those involved are classified and investigators are still examining the Jan. 2 incident. The sensitivity of the mission dictates that even the quadrates of the crash a secret. That's life on OPERATION JUMP START, for a select few.

But it's no secret that, when facing death, life all of a sudden comes into perspective. Each crewmember has reevaluated his closest values. Spouses, children and families, for example, have taken on grander roles.

"It is amazing what you take for granted on a daily basis. You don't realize it until something is taken away," said a lieutenant, the only female aboard. "I definitely don't take things for granted anymore. I feel that I have been given a second chance. I am very grateful for that, and I intend to make the most of it."

The crew chief has also gained a greater appreciation for family and how his actions affect them.

"I find even though I am very careful and don't take unnecessary risks, I am more careful now," he said. "I want to be around for a very long time. I also have a greater appreciation for my crew and their families and for the same reasons. My actions affect their lives and all the lives they touch."

Three of the four hail from the same home unit: the 812th Medical Detachment out of Mather Field, Sacramento. They started on the Southwest border mission last July. As a foursome,

they've flown 60-plus missions, sometimes flying two or three times a day.

But on that day, there was a slight change. They escorted border patrol agents and took an altered path along the California-Mexico boundary. As they headed up the mountain, trouble happened. The chopper quickly lost altitude and spiraled earthward. Everyone braced for impact.

"What do I remember the most? Hitting the ground," said the crew's medic, a sergeant. "What would I like to forget? Hitting the ground."

"Six to seven seconds before impact, but I was only around for the first three," recalled the staff sergeant. "I don't remember anything else."

"I remember how hard we hit the ground, and I wouldn't mind forgetting that!" added the copilot.

Once trouble started, the pilot had just seconds to make life-or-death decisions. Nine lives were at stake.

"I tell people I was selfish in that I was determined to land the aircraft and survive this accident no matter what," the pilot said. "Everyone else was just along for the ride and was going to survive by default. Survival depends on how you react as it happens. Keep your wits, let your training guide you and hopefully you are able to look back and then be able to learn from those events. I've learned that a crew means that everyone is responsible for the outcome of a mission."

Upon impact, the chopper broke into pieces and debris scattered. But the crewmembers and agents were all conscious. They immediately checked each other for injuries, shut off fuel lines, secured the aircraft, checked radio communication and informed headquarters of their status.

All credit the Border Patrol's rapid response. Within minutes, agents arrived to help.

"You've got to credit them. You cannot leave them out," said the staff sergeant. "Honestly, in my 20 years in the military, I have never seen anything work as good as the Army and Border Patrol. We love them, they love us."

The lieutenant sustained the worst injury. She still suffers from a broken back. That hasn't diminished her spirit to live and recover fully.

"My family, friends, and co-workers have been very supportive. My doctors have been absolutely amazing," she said. "I have to give most of the credit to my wonderful husband. I don't know what I would have done without him. He has been my angel through this traumatic experience. He has been so patient and understanding. He also cooks a lot more now."

The sergeant also has medical issues, having been pinned underneath the chopper. His mobility skills are hampered, but not his will. He has returned to work for more than a month now.

"This is one of those things that you can never forget, and the neck and back pain will always be there to remind me," the sergeant said.

The other noncommissioned officer displays the heart and spirit of a lion. He, too, works hard, but with modest back injuries. The event, he said, reaffirmed his religious beliefs.

"One thing's for sure. Everybody on the helicopter is going to have back problems," he said.

The chief has moved forward. He's been flying missions for quite sometime with no fear of going airborne once again.

"The obvious healing from my injuries has taken some time. The event will not significantly change who I am or what I do. It was an accident after all," the chief said. "At some point in our lives accidents will happen. We try to survive the incident, learn what we can from it, try not to repeat it, and then move on."

There were so many heroes that day. The chief, for controlling the chopper enough to land right side up; the co-pilot, for her brave assistance; the staff sergeant for his safety skills; the sergeant for his medical advice and the Border Patrol for its rapid response.

So many heroes, yet no one claims to be.

"We were all trying to do what we can to help everyone else," the chief explained.

"Your survival instinct kicks in," the lieutenant echoed. "Most of the credit should go to everyone who was able to help those of us who were injured. We are very thankful to everyone who helped get us off that mountain and to the hospital as quickly as possible."

The mangled chopper now sits in a hangar. It's in pieces, more now than upon impact. It still remains hidden from the public eye but is visible to aviators. It's doubtful it'll move for quite some time. It serves as monument to a team that encountered the gravest of all challenges and met those challenges with its Head Coach on their side.





## Answering Duty's Call: The Work of Seeking Soldiers

By Warrant Officer (CSMR) Rick de la Torre

LOS ALAMITOS, JOINT FORCES TRAINING BASE — Step forward and sign-up. Stay in and re-up. These shorthand phrases are serving as operational battle cries as the Cal Guard works to meet recruitment and retention goals for this year.

Finding new soldiers and keeping the ones in hand has become a top priority for California National Guard as they seek to inspire and motivate men and women statewide to enlist or reenlist.

"We want you to stay in the Guard," state Command Sgt. Maj. William Clark Jr. told about 150 Soldiers attending the first portion of the day-long information event at the base theater. "We want you to stay on our team. We can't do it without you."

Each year, the Cal Guard holds a series of the seminars across the state. The gatherings provide the opportunity for Soldiers to receive detailed presentations and material about the

choices they have, and the many advantages, benefits and bonuses available for staying in, and for making the Guard a career.

A team of Cal Guard career counselors is always on hand at the seminars to help provide information and answer questions. The idea, according to Sgt. Joanna Cervantes, a counselor, is to assist Soldiers in achieving their life-long goals. "It's not just the Soldier caring and retention," she said, "but to help them get what they want out of the military."

The material always includes plenty of information from the health care program provider known as TRICARE. Family readiness organizations are also usually on hand to explain their various support services and programs.



The May 5 seminar was the second of four that will be held this year. The first was in March at Travis Air Force Base; the other two will take place in August and October at locations to be announced.

## Army ROTC: Obtain Your Degree & Become an Officer

By: 2nd Lt. Steve Kim

The path to becoming an Army Officer is difficult and seemingly impossible at times. Army ROTC has always been a quality source of commissioned officers. Now, more than ever, the call for quality leaders is high. The California National Guard is providing the means to meet this call. It is up to you to answer it.

For individuals pursuing a college education, and also possessing the desire and capabilities to lead, the Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty (GRFD) Scholarship provides unique opportunities to qualified individuals seeking enrollment in college ROTC. A potential candidate will be

offered various forms of financial benefits that will enable him/her to not only achieve a college education, but a career of leadership. Additionally, the GRFD provides full coverage for tuition, and an annual stipend of \$900 for books and supplies. A cadet will additionally be awarded stipends that will cumulate at \$500 a month during the final year of ROTC. This scholarship can be used with your GI Bill benefits. To satisfy scholarship requirements, a potential candidate also drills monthly with an M-Day unit, and earns Cadet (E-5 or E-6 if you are currently a Staff

Sgt.) drill pay as part of the Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP). The SMP, or internship in leadership, is an opportunity for hands-on learning and execution as a future officer.

For more information contact Recruiting Operations Officer at your area's Army ROTC Program, the Education Office, or an area California Army National Guard Officer or NCO Recruiter.





# News & Benefits

## The Extended Care Health Option (ECHO)

The Extended Care Health Option (ECHO) is a supplemental program to the TRICARE Basic benefit that provides eligible active duty family members with an additional financial resource for services and supplies designed to help reduce the disabling effects of a beneficiary's qualifying condition. ECHO has no enrollment fee. Registration in ECHO requires the beneficiary to be enrolled in the Exceptional Family Members Program (EFMP) of the sponsor's branch of service, or the service's equivalent. For more information on ECHO, visit the TRICARE website ECHO page, or contact your regional contractor. For more information about EFMP, visit the Military Homefront website. <http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/>

## Mandatory Separation Ages Change

Air Force Reserve officers, if otherwise eligible, can now stay in the service longer before reaching their mandatory separation age. In the past, brigadier generals and below had to retire or separate when they reached age 60. Now they can stay until age 62. The age for major generals rose from 62 to 64. With the approval from the secretary of the Air Force, chaplains and officers in some health professions may remain in an active status until age 67. Additionally, mandatory separation dates because of years of commissioned service restrictions have not changed. For more information, visit the Air Reserve Personnel Center's Mandatory Separations Dates webpage. <http://arpc.afrc.af.mil/separations/msd.asp>

## Military Pay Raise

Military people would get a 3.5 percent pay raise January 2008, under a compensation package voted recently by the House armed services' subcommittee on military personnel. In shaping the personnel section of the fiscal 2008 defense authorization bill, the subcommittee approved other initiatives too to please health care beneficiaries, surviving spouses and some disabled retirees forced from service short of 20 years by combat-related injuries. For more information, read the article on the Military.com website. All military pay information can be found in Military.com's Pay Section. <http://www.military.com/benefits/military-pay>

## Did You Know?

That phone call you just made to your best friend on your work phone might lead to disciplinary action. You should only be using your Government telephone to conduct official business or other authorized uses. Commanders and supervisors at all levels will make anyone using Government telecommunications systems aware of permissible and unauthorized uses. Some examples of other authorized calls include notifying family members of changes in schedules, checking on a spouse or minor children. Other authorized uses are checking on medical, school, or childcare appointments and inquiring into home or car repair status. Emergency calls are always authorized. The Joint Ethics Regulation, Section 2-301, serves as the basis for the policy on the use of telecommunications. Further guidance exists in AR 25-1 and AFI 33-106.

## 'Phishing'

Various agencies are reporting an increase in phishing activities directed at users of financial institutions. Users are reminded to ALWAYS be skeptical of links in email to financial institutions. In matters related to finance, always question messages requesting immediate action on your part and provide you with a link to resolve the problem. In some cases, actual logos and graphics from the real sites are embedded in the messages in an effort to convince users of the message's legitimacy. According to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3), take the following actions if you are suspicious of an email:

Be suspicious of any unsolicited email requesting personal information. ★ Avoid filling out forms in email messages that ask for personal information. ★ Always compare the link in the email to the link that you are actually directed to. ★ Log on to the official website, instead of "linking" to it from an unsolicited email. ★ Contact the actual business that supposedly sent the email to verify if the email is genuine.

If you receive a suspicious email that you believe may be a phishing scam, go to <http://www.ic3.gov/> for further instructions.

If you believe you may have compromised your State or Federal Credit Card information in one of these types of scams, please complete an SIR (Serious Incident Report) and forward it to the Joint Operations Center immediately.

## Air Force Emphasizes Anthrax Vaccination

Headquarters Air Force officials recently sent additional implementation guidance to major commands that states that all categories of personnel on orders may begin immunizations up to 60 days before deployment or arrival at the deployment location. High threat areas are primarily the Central Command area of responsibility or the Korean peninsula. The anthrax series includes the initial vaccination followed by a shot at two weeks, four weeks, six months, 12 months, and 18 months. Once Airmen complete the series they only need an annual booster to remain current. For more information on the anthrax vaccination, visit <http://www.vaccines.army.mil> or <http://www.anthrax.mil/>.

## Find a Construction Career @ HelmetstoHardhats.org

Helmets to Hardhats places quality men and women from the Armed Forces into promising building and construction careers. You can search for positions by trade, find Certified Apprenticeship programs, learn how to build a resume and much more. Visit [info.HelmetsToHardhats.org](http://info.HelmetsToHardhats.org) and set up a free account. <http://info.helmetstohardhats.org/content/index.jsp>

## Army Unveils New Army Combat Shirt

The Army Program Executive Office Soldier will soon provide an improved Army combat shirt to Soldiers deploying to Iraq and Afghanistan. The flame-resistant long-sleeved shirt, which retains the moisture-wicking capability, breatheability, and durability of other components in the ACU, also has many of its other features, including cargo pockets, infrared identification tabs, and hook-and-loop fasteners for the American flag. The high performance shirt is designed to be a base layer and can be worn directly under the Interceptor Body Armor. The shirt integrates with other flame-resistant components, such as the Army combat pants, to provide head-to-toe protection against burns.





# Memorial Day

STAFF SERGEANT **DAVID PERRY** (649TH MP CO)  
SPECIALIST **MICHAEL MIHALAKIS** (270TH MP CO)  
SPECIALIST **ERIC RAMIREZ** (670TH MP CO)  
FIRST LIEUTENANT **MICHAEL W. VEGA** (CO A, 223RD MI BN)  
SPECIALIST **DANIEL P. UNGER** (CO A, 1ST BN, 185TH INF)  
FIRST LIEUTENANT **ANDRE D. TYSON** (CO A, 579TH ENGR BN)  
SERGEANT **PATRICK R. MCCAFFREY** (CO A, 579TH ENGR BN)  
SERGEANT **QUOC B. TRAN** (DET 3, CO D, 185TH AR BN)  
SERGEANT FIRST CLASS **MICHAEL OTTOLINI** (CO A, 579TH ENGR BN)  
CORPORAL **GLENN J. WATKINS** (CO B, 1ST BN 161ST INF)  
SERGEANT **TIMOTHY C. KISER** (HHD 340TH FWD SPT BN)  
SERGEANT **ARNOLD DUPLANTIER II** (CO C, 1ST BN 184TH INF (AASLT)  
STAFF SERGEANT **ALFREDO SILVA** (DET 1 HHB, 1ST BN 487TH FA)  
SERGEANT **MIKE T. SONODA JR.** (DET 2, CO D, 1ST BN 184TH INF (AASLT)  
STAFF SERGEANT **PAUL C. NEUBAUER** (CO D, (-) 1ST BN 184TH INF (AASLT)  
SERGEANT FIRST CLASS **DANIEL R. SCHIELE** (DET 1 CO D, 1ST BN 184TH INF (AASLT)  
STAFF SERGEANT **JERRY L. BONIFACIO JR.** (CO B (-), 1ST BN 184TH INF (AASLT)  
CAPTAIN **RAYMOND HILL** (HHC, 1ST BN 184TH INF (AASLT)  
SERGEANT **SHAKERE T. GUY** (CO D, 1ST BN 184TH INF (AASLT)  
SERGEANT **MARCELINO R. CORNIEL** (COMPANY A, 1ST BN, 184TH INF (AASLT)  
SERGEANT FIRST CLASS **ISAAC S. LAWSON** (HHD, 49TH MP BRIGADE)  
SERGEANT FIRST CLASS **RUDY SALCIDO** (1114TH TRANSPORTATION CO)  
SERGEANT **DWAYNE YOUNG** (COMPANY C, 3RD BN, 160TH INF)  
CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER **ARTHUR LAGUNA** (BLACKWATER, USA)  
SERGEANT **RHYS W. KLASNO** (1114TH TRANSPORTATION CO)

# In Remembrance

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